

**BEFORE THE PRESIDING DISCIPLINARY
JUDGE**

IN THE MATTER OF A MEMBER OF
THE STATE BAR OF ARIZONA,

CHARLES W. BASSETT,
Bar No. 023581

Respondent.

PDJ-2016-9047

**ORDER OF INTERIM
SUSPENSION**

[State Bar Nos. 16-0076, 16-0558]

FILED JUNE 7, 2016

The State Bar filed a verified notice of failure to comply with subpoena and petition for order to show cause. Mr. Bassett filed no response to the petition. Under Rules 47(h)(4) and 55(b)(1)(B), Ariz. R. Sup. Ct. a hearing was held on Tuesday, May 31, 2016. Hunter F. Perlmeier appeared on behalf of the State Bar. Charles W. Bassett appeared *pro per*.

Mr. Bassett acknowledged he was served with a subpoena to appear for his deposition and *duces tecum* on April 21, 2016. Mr. Bassett testified that shortly after he was served he threw the documents somewhere in his car. He stated he believed if he supplied the documents sought by the State Bar his presence would not be required. He acknowledged he supplied no documents by his May 5, 2016 required appearance time for his deposition. Mr. Bassett submitted he is a perfectionist and has difficulty completing tasks. He stated the absence of a secretary was to blame for his failings. He stated he will have a psychiatric evaluation when he has time to schedule it. He alternatively asserted his lost phone was at fault and he couldn't

replace it for weeks. He acknowledged the State Bar called him regarding his appearance. He blame-shifted to the State Bar for not writing him follow-up emails, rather than just calling him.

The bar charges were received in January, 2016. Mr. Bassett was requested to respond in March and admits he has not tried to supply verbal or written responses or information of any kind regarding those charges. He states he is sure he can supply information over a course of several weeks.

It is the finding of this court under Supreme Court Rule 47(H)(4), that when Mr. Bassett was subpoenaed to respond to a request for information and to appear and give testimony, he refused to appear or supply those subpoenaed records. An Order to Show Cause was set and heard. The notice informed Mr. Bassett that a finding of contempt could cause a sanction of the summary suspension of his license to practice law.

Mr. Bassett was found to be in contempt after the hearing and given until June 7, 2016, 4:00 P.M., to submit proof of compliance with the subpoena. Proof of compliance has not been submitted.

Now Therefore,

IT IS ORDERED, summarily suspending **Charles W. Bassett, Bar No. 023581** from the practice of law under Supreme Court Rule 47(H)(4), until Mr. Bassett complies with the subpoena or further order. Upon verification of compliance, the presiding disciplinary judge shall enter an order of reinstatement. This order is effective immediately.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, effective immediately Charles W. Bassett shall not accept for representation any new clients and is precluded from accepting funds for that purpose.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, freezing any trust account and operating accounts of Charles W. Bassett and restraining him from making a withdrawal of funds in any manner, from any trust account or operating account without the prior written approval of bar counsel or by order of the PDJ which shall be applied for by formal written motion.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, under Supreme Court Rule 72(a) **Charles W. Bassett, Bar No. 023581** shall notify all his clients of the terms of this order within ten days and shall timely file with the Disciplinary Clerk and the Court, a notice of compliance with this Order as provided by Rule 72(e), Rules of the Supreme Court of Arizona.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED setting this matter for a telephonic status review on **September 6, 2016 at 11:00 a.m.** to discuss the status. The State Bar shall expeditiously proceed with any related disciplinary investigation and proceeding regarding Mr. Bassett. This status review shall automatically be vacated without further order upon the filing by the State Bar of a complaint regarding this matter.

DATED this 7th day of June, 2016.

William J. O'Neil

William J. O'Neil, Presiding Disciplinary Judge

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Copies of the foregoing e-mailed
this 7th day of June, 2016, and
mailed this 8th day of June, 2016, to:

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